IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claim 1 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A tree stand comprising:

a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means,

wherein the fluid reservoir comprises a cylindrical or frustoconical member being closed at one end thereof by a base,

wherein the tree retaining member is connected to the base,

wherein the tree retaining member comprises an aperture located on a side <u>adjacent to a base</u> of the tree retaining member and a substantially cylindrical hollow member,

wherein the tree gripping means comprises a plurality of projections arranged on the interior surface of the tree retaining member and extending in a radial fashion, inwardly from an interior surface of the tree retaining member,

wherein the projections run substantially axially with the tree retaining member and include a sharp or pointed portion arranged in use to at least partially penetrate the trunk of a tree inserted into the tree retaining member, and

wherein the tree retaining member is configured to hold a tree inserted therein without using any moveable mechanical means in the form of screws or bolts by resisting lifting of a tree inserted therein relative to the tree stand.

2-4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tree retaining member does not substantially protrude from the fluid reservoir.

6-16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projections are arranged to maintain a degree of separation between a tree trunk inserted into the tree stand, and portions of the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid reservoir and tree retaining member are in fluid communication.

20-36. (Cancelled)

37.   (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aperture comprises a slot cut in a curved surface of the tree retaining member.

Application No.: 10/565,758